

Louisville Metro Office for International Affairs



Mission:

The Office for International Affairs supports and promotes a vibrant successful, interconnected, multicultural community through awareness, advocacy and referral.

Vision:

A multicultural community recognized for its climate of support and quality of life.

Strategic Theme:

Awareness

**Bridge the disconnect
between native
Louisvillians and the
immigrant population**

Mayor's Community Conversations

Creation of annual publication designed as a resource for the community, 3,000 distributed community-wide.

Mayor's Community Conversations

Moved Mayor's Community Conversations to Iroquois High School during International Heritage Month to accommodate higher concentration of immigrants, increased attendance of immigrant population, over 20 international exhibitors and all Metro Government departments.



Intercultural Relations

Presented panel discussion on Immigrant and African-American relations, in partnership with the Louisville Urban League and the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

Diversity Panel

Participated in panel discussion on Cultural Diversity: "Why Should We and How Can We Embrace It In Louisville," in partnership with the Young Professional Association of Louisville.

Lost Boys of Sudan Film and Panel

Participated in post-film panel discussion on resettlement and integration, in partnership with the Kentucky Theater, Catholic Charities and Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

**Prejudice Reduction
and Conflict Resolution**

Trained 32 community leaders, in partnership with the Kentucky Chapter of the National Coalition of Building Institute.

Diversity

Presented diversity training to over 25 agencies and organizations in our community and Kentucky.

Leadership

Presented information on international community and organized tour of Iroquois Shopping Center, Americana Community Center and St. John Vianney Church for Focus Louisville participants, in partnership with the Leadership Louisville Center.

Recommended 10 immigrants for scholarships to attend Focus Louisville.

Presented information on international community to 40 high school students attending Spirit Louisville, in partnership with the Leadership Louisville Center and Metro Government's Office for Youth Development.

**Research on Diversity of Service Delivery
in Metro Government**

Conducted Louisville Metro Government department-wide research on service delivery and made recommendations to the Mayor.

Boards and Commissions

Nominated several immigrants to Citizen Commission on Police Accountability, Louisville Free Public Library, Human Relations Commission, Metro United Way and other local boards and commissions.

Awards and Grants

Southern Growth Policies Board, 2004 Innovator Award.

AARP Segunda Juventad, Best Cities to Call Home, January 2004.

\$6,000 from the Community Foundation of Louisville for Building Futures.

\$2,500 personal donation for Building Futures' ESL Libraries.

\$15,000 from Annie E. Casey, CE & S Foundation, GLI and KentuckianaWorks for Louisville Immigrant Profile conducted by the Urban Institute.

Materials and customized training from from Active Voice, The New Americans Community Campaign.

Other

Represented the Mayor at international events on a weekly basis.

Guest on State of Affairs public radio program to address the community on the growing international community.

***Strategic Theme:
Marketing and Events***

**Raise the profile of the
Office for International Affairs
and the international community
through an effective
public relations campaign**

Multicultural Guide

Expanded Louisville's African-American Guide to become Louisville's Multicultural Guide. 20,000 copies published, in partnership with the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

WorldFest

Celebration of diversity; more than 20,000 in attendance. Parade of nations led by Mayor Abramson, 20 food vendors, 55 information booths, print and radio coverage.

Cooking Up Cultures

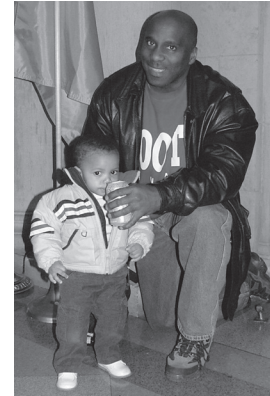
Nine food and culture educational programs with over 350 in attendance, in partnership with the Louisville Free Public Library.

WorldQuest

Academic contest involving four-person teams from 15 local and regional high schools, in partnership with the Louisville International Cultural Center.

Mayor's International Award

Annual award recognizes and honors organizations and businesses that recognize the value of multiculturalism while striving to create an environment where all international newcomers feel welcome and have the opportunity to fully participate in the economic, civic, social and cultural life of Louisville.

**SOS Tsunami Concert**

Raised \$6,000 to support Supplies Over Seas (S.O.S.), in partnership with S.O.S., Jefferson County Medical Society and United Parcel Service.

International Heritage Month (September)

Promoted over 27 cultural events.

Sister Cities Summit

Assisted in the organization of the Summit and hosting of 140 international guests.

International Visitors

Metro Louisville welcomed over 350 visitors from more than 50 countries, in partnership with Sister Cities and the Louisville International Cultural Center.



**Dignitaries and Special Guests**

Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, Japan.

Prince Firas and Princess Dana Raad from Jordan.

Thirteen Islamic scholars from Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Other

BBC radio interview in English and Spanish to address the impact of immigrants on local and national politics.

Strategic Theme:
**Economic and
Workforce Development**

**Enhance opportunities
for the international community
by reducing barriers to success**

Small Business Development Seminar

First time event designed specifically for international population on how to start a small business with 25 in attendance, in partnership with the United States Business Administration.

Nursing Seminar

Third annual event with exhibitors from hospitals and educational institutions with 87 in attendance, in partnership with Kentucky Association of Hispanic Nurses, Area Health Education Center and McKendree College.

Strategic Theme:
Education

**Promote the value of education
through collaborative efforts
to enhance the quality of life
for all members of the community**

International Citizens Police Academy

Graduated 23 international residents from 10 countries, in partnership with the Louisville Metro Police Department.

Citizenship Classes

Seventy-one residents from 19 countries prepared to become citizens, in partnership with Kentucky Refugee Ministries.



International Citizens Police Academy

Building Futures

Served more than 85 students and involved more than 75 community volunteers.

Collected more than \$7,000 in books and monetary donations for ESL libraries.

Conducted Prejudice Reduction and Inter-Group Conflict training for more than 100 Middle school students, in partnership with Peace Education.

Hosted the first gathering of ESL middle and high school students from six schools to hear Mawi Asgedon, author of *Beetles & Angels; A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard*, in partnership with Kentucky Refugee Ministries and Jefferson County Public Schools.

**Immigration Update**

Panel discussion on current immigration issues including former United States Congressman Ron Mazzoli and five immigration attorneys. 45 in attendance.

ESL Survey

Conducted a community-wide ESL survey which resulted in recommendations for a community plan.

**Strategic Theme:
Social Services**

**Support and advocate
for the delivery of social services
to the international community**

Title VI Compliance

Presented compliance information to more than 10 agencies and organizations in Kentucky.

International Brown Bag Series

Twelve opportunities a year for social service providers to discuss immigrant issues, in partnership with Metro Government Human Services and Catholic Charities.

Language Services

Conducted 14 trainings for interpreters in medical and legal interpretation, over 100 in attendance, in partnership with Catholic Charities.

Referrals

Receive 10 - 15 calls a week, which result in referrals to social service agencies.

Other

Attended conference on Cultural Competence in Healthcare.

Attended conference on Low-Income Immigrant Rights.

Committees**The Advisory Council**

was created to advise, support and advocate for the work of the Louisville Metro Office for International Affairs. Although not a board, the group acts as a board in setting the scope and direction of the office's activities.

The ESL Roundtable was created in order to address the strengths and weaknesses of the community's ESL programs, create dialogue and awareness and define parameters for standardization of each program's methods and results.

The Immigrant Human Service Task Force was created in partnership with the Louisville Metro Human Services Department to ensure that immigrants and refugees in our community receive adequate assistance and attention from social service and medical providers focusing on Title VI.

The Immigrant Leadership Initiative was created to empower immigrant and refugee leaders to improve quality of life in their neighborhoods and fully participate in the life of the community.

**The Neighborhood Safety Task Force**

was created to work toward fostering better relationships and improving communication between Louisville Metro Police Department- Fourth Division and Americana neighborhood residents. Primary goals are reduction of crime rates, changing negative perceptions and diminishing fear of crime in this area.

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for International Affairs**

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